

TYBURN NEWSLETTER

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SACRED HEART 2021



Dear Friends,

In this blessed Year of St Joseph, it seems fitting to start with something about the three hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

“After God, Saint Joseph was the first object of the love of his most holy Bride, and he had the first place in her heart ... as the bride belongs to her husband, the heart of Mary belonged to Joseph. Not only was it his, but if it is said of the first Christians that they had but one heart and one soul, how much more can it be said of the Blessed Virgin and her holy Spouse that they had but one soul and one heart through a sacred bond of love and charity.

It is therefore evident that Joseph had one heart with Mary, and we can say that Mary had one heart with Jesus; Joseph, therefore, shared one heart with Jesus and Mary. As in the adorable Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, there are three persons who have only one heart, with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, there are three united hearts.”

The Holy Family is an example for all families, even if it can look to be far from our own experience, since one member was God, the other sinless and the last a Saint. In the account of the conversion of Scott and Kimberly Hahn from Evangelical Protestantism, Kimberly recounts the difficulty she had at first in relating to Mary “...First you’re telling me that I’m dealing with a woman who never sinned. Second, you’re telling me this woman had only one child and he was perfect. Just think about it, something goes wrong at the dinner table, and everyone looks at St Joseph, it had to be his fault!” ...Kimberly was of course joking, yet as even Saints can have minor faults and failings, it makes it easier to relate to St Joseph.

There is a particular need today for devotion and prayer to the chaste heart of St Joseph. The virtue of chastity as we know, is needed by both single and married people. Children above all need to be taught to know the beauty of this virtue and be challenged to be different by living it out in their lives. One can only be grateful for people like Patricia Sandoval who, after conversion from a sadly immoral lifestyle, as related in her book ‘Transfigured’, now does tremendous good by giving talks on chastity, often to school children. “*Standing before assemblies of hundreds of students, in schools where nuns are their teachers, I would ask the youths to raise their hands if they knew what chastity was. Not one hand would be raised.*” Having suffered greatly during her life, she is able to connect with the young who always recognize authenticity, and she helps them to understand. They even respond with joy to her appeal to pledge themselves to chastity. May God continue to bless her work and raise up more souls to promote chastity among the young. St Joseph most chaste, pray for us!



Like many Catholics, we followed Rev. Fr Calloway's book of Consecration to St Joseph and were able to make our consecration on his feast day 19th March, joined by a husband and wife who happened to be in the chapel at that time!

As the Autumn leaves fall in many coloured showers, we are reminded again how quickly the year is passing. We thank God for our freedom from lock downs this year and continue to pray for the countries most affected by Covid19 and for the salvation of all the dying. An indulgence can be gained this year by entrusting one's work to St Joseph and asking his intercession for the many left unemployed at this time.

Property

The orchard did not produce so well this year, perhaps due to the inclement weather in early Spring. The only fruits which excelled were the Feijoas which develop later in Summer and profited from the abundant rain. They are being made into jam to sell in our shop.

An addition to the graveyard is soon to be installed. A priest mentioned last year that it should have a crucifix and we kept it in mind but were thinking of a small one. Someone who heard about this, generously offered to donate a very large one. It has arrived and is very beautiful. The body was carved by hand in Bethlehem from olive wood, while the actual cross was made in the USA and then the whole thing shipped to us. Mark Pemberton and Steve McLeod have designed and are making a small shrine for it to be housed in. We look forward to seeing it completed and installed.

Guests

We continue to welcome many people to our retreat centre, of all different denominations who all seem to find a means to come closer to God here. There are often comments on the peace they experience and it's our theory that it comes from our Lord exposed on his Eucharistic throne in the Chapel.

Some of Jesus' last words were to promise His followers a peace that the world cannot give. We can then hope to attain a deep interior peace if we remain united to Him by obeying His commandments. This is not a superficial peace, as it usually means first, to wage a spiritual war against our own selfishness and laziness! Next, we should never expect to live in complete peace and harmony with governments and a world that has forgotten God and breaks even the natural laws that He has given us for our own good.

It can sometimes be overlooked that although we associate Jesus with peace, He also said that He came not to bring peace but a sword, and that because of Him even families would be divided. That reminds us that Jesus must rank first in our lives and our love. Everything else should be secondary, even our physical life. And finally, as St Paul states: "*we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*" (Eph. 6:12). But "thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor 15:57)

Stay awake for you know not the day! We had a surprise visit one evening after Vespers when the portress opened the door to a priest and some



religious sisters. When she asked the name of this unknown priest, she was told he was Novatus Rugumbwa. It is fortunate that we hear that name every day in our Vespers prayers when we pray for the Apostolic Nuncio of New Zealand. Thus she was able to identify him even though he did not announce his title! We were all delighted to meet him, and found him a very humble and holy man. May God bless his mission here in New Zealand.

Around the World

Our Sisters in Australia continue the huge job of packing and moving out of their monastery. They are moving to Kurmond which is still in the Paramatta diocese but further out. There isn't much there yet besides a house, so there will be a lot of building to be done in the coming years. Ducks are here in the picture but the neighbours also keep horses, alpacas and kangaroos, so there is plenty of wildlife, including the odd snake or two common to Australia.



In Peru our Mother Noelle made her monastic profession in April which was a joyous day for her and her community despite the restrictions caused by Covid19. We thank God for her faithful witness far from her home and family.

This beautiful monastery of the Sacred Heart has a very special biblical setting in the desert. Due to their work and perseverance, they have managed to establish

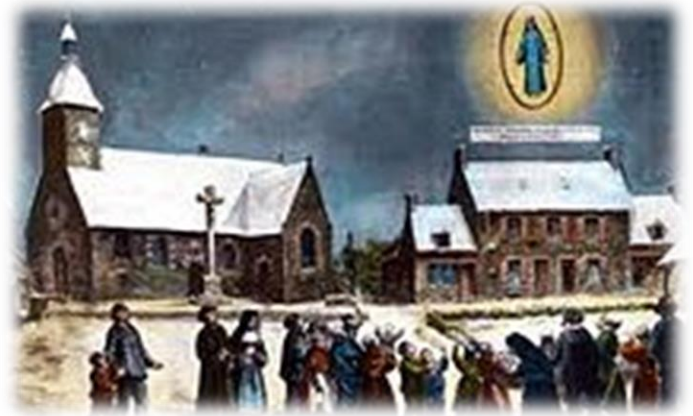
an orchard with tropical fruiting plants in the desert behind the monastery. Just recently it was discovered that there is water deep below the ground, so with the help of friends they are attempting to drill a bore which would be a great help for the survival of the orchard.



Our monastery in Ecuador, appropriately called 'Puerta del Cielo' (Gate of Heaven) has welcomed two postulants, Sr Lorena and Sr Mireya. We ask your prayers for them that they may persevere joyfully in their vocation!

In Colombia, our community is the only monastery to have a shrine dedicated to **Our Lady of Pontmain**, or as she is also called '**Our Lady of Hope**'. There seems to be a revival of interest in her at the present time due to the sufferings caused by Covid19. This is the vision given in France on January 17th 1871, and of special interest to us due to the fact that our Mother Foundress was nearby and was the first to draw an image of the vision, from which all other images were copied. The only words of this vision were formed letter by letter in the sky. The message read: "But pray, my children, God will answer you very soon. My Son allows himself to be touched". Their prayers were actually being answered at that very

moment! The whole of the vision lasted about 3 hours, with all the people assembled around the children, praying and singing. Only 2 days earlier, the villagers had been in despair that God was not hearing their prayers! Let us have hope in the intercession of Our Lady and confidence that God hears the prayers of even the smallest and most insignificant.



It can be confusing sometimes when our prayers are not answered in the way that we expect. Josin shares his struggle to understand God's ways, when his mother was diagnosed with cancer in 2016. *That evening I sat in my room and stared at a statue of Jesus carrying His Cross... I asked Jesus from the depths of my heart, "Why, why this cross in our lives?" ... As I sat in my room gazing at the statue, a thought entered my mind. Jesus is alone carrying His Cross. After a while I heard a voice in my heart saying "Josin can you help Me carry My Cross?" I realized what Jesus was calling me to do and my vocation became clear. I was to help carry the Cross of Jesus, like Simon of Cyrene...*



Unless there is a cross in our
life there will never be a
resurrection.

Venerable Fulton Sheen

My mentor gave me but one piece of advice: Josin, in praying for your present situation, you will find one of two answers: either God will heal your mother completely, or else He has no plan to heal this illness but is giving this illness as a cross to bear. But if that is the case, He will also give you and your family the grace and strength to bear it." Josin understood that God was answering his prayers in the second way but soon noticed how this cross of cancer was purifying his family. "It increased our faith. It transformed my father into a man of prayer. It helped and guided me to choose the religious life. It helped my sister to grow closer to Jesus... By June of 2018 my mother's illness had taken

a turn for the worse. She was under tremendous pain, but, surprisingly, she remained joyful. She said to my father one day, "Enough of all this treatment. After all, I am going to Heaven. A few days later she woke from a dream and said to my father, "I saw a dream". But before she could elaborate, Celine Thomas had departed from this world, completing her earthly pilgrimage. Over the course of two years, through 30 chemotherapies and 3 major surgeries, she carried her cross faithfully without relief from her pain. I am now certain that she is looking upon the glory of Christ, face to face.

"The sufferings that we experience allow us to partake in the suffering of Christ. Without the willingness to embrace suffering for the sake of Christ, we cannot fulfil our Christian mission on earth. Christianity is the only religion that recognizes the salvific aspects of suffering and teaches that suffering can help us attain eternal salvation – if we join it to Christ's own suffering. St John Vianney also reminds us that "The Cross is the ladder to Heaven". (Shalom Tidings May June 2021)



We pray that all may grow strong in their faith in these times of trial. The world needs saints and "all the faithful are invited and obliged to holiness and the perfection of their own state of life" (Lumen Gentium). The Holy Mass will be offered for the intentions of our friends and benefactors on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. May God continue to bless you and your families.

The Tyburn Nuns